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May 19, 2017

Marlene Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Accelerating Wireline Broadband Deployment by Removing  
Barriers to Infrastructure Investment, WC Docket 17-84**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On May 16, 2017, the undersigned, along with Vice Mayor David Luna of the City of Mesa, Arizona; Becky Taylor, Manager of Research and Federal Advocacy for the Georgia Municipal Association; Councilmember Lisa Clark Hill of the City of Moultrie, Georgia; Kathleen Bowen, Legislative Associate for ACCG; and Commissioner Nancy Thrash of Lamar County, Georgia met with Mike Ray, John Visclosky, Kris Monteith, Deborah Salons, Zach Ross, Adam Copeland, Terri Natoli, Daniel Kahn, and Madeleine Findley of the Wireline Competition Bureau.

During the meeting, we told participating staff that the cities and counties we represented, and their local permitting, use agreements, or rights of way fees were not barriers to broadband deployment. We discussed the difference in purpose of application fees charged for properly assessing and processing applications, versus rent paid to local governments for use of public property, including the rights of way. We also discussed the duty that local governments have to collect this income from users of public property, and the state-mandated requirements for Georgia local governments to collect that income. Local governments, particularly in rural communities, want to work with providers to bring broadband investment to their communities.

We also discussed our opposition to preempting or limiting local government ability to negotiate with wireline providers in the community for certain services or

guarantees as part of access to public rights of way. Many local governments use these negotiations as a vital tool to ensure that educational institutions or low-income communities receive connectivity and are not redlined as technological advances reach some neighborhoods, but not others.

Lastly, we discussed the copper retirement provisions within the item. We urged the Commission to move cautiously on removing any consumer protections, and to work with local governments to ensure that as the IP transition continues, no consumers are caught by surprise or left with insufficient service. Local governments have a duty to ensure the safety of their communities, and an important part of that duty is ensuring that connections to emergency services are not interrupted.

This letter is being filed electronically pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules. Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*/s/Angelina Panettieri*

Principal Associate, Technology and Communications  
National League of Cities